

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (withdrawn) A nonwoven fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polybutylene succinate, polyethylene succinate, polybutylene adipate, polybutylene sebacate, polycaprolactone and polypropiolactone, and copolymers essentially comprising a base unit of any of these polymers.

- 4. (cancelled)
- 5. (cancelled)
- 6. (cancelled)
- 7. (cancelled)
- 8. (cancelled)
- 9. (cancelled)
- 10. (cancelled)
- 11. (cancelled)
- 12. (cancelled)
- 13. (cancelled)
- 14. (cancelled)
- 15. (cancelled)
- 16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A thermoformable nonwoven fabric composed of filaments of a biodegradable polymer, wherein

the biodegradable polymer is a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid in which the copolymerization molar ratio of either one of D-lactic acid ~~in which the copolymerization molar ratio of either one of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid~~ is 90% or more and that of the other is 10% or less,

the nonwoven fabric is a spun bonded nonwoven fabric in which the filaments are bonded to each other only in spot fusion-bonded areas partially formed in the nonwoven fabric,

the filaments have a polymer supercool index of 0.3 to 0.6,

the filaments have a birefringence of 3×10^{-3} to 15×10^{-3} ,

the filaments have a polymer crystalline size of 15 to 20 angstroms as measured axially thereof, and

the nonwoven fabric has a boiling water shrinkage percentage of 10 to 40%.

18. (previously presented) The nonwoven fabric as set forth in claim 17 wherein the polymer contains a nucleating agent.

19. (previously presented) A product thermoformed from the nonwoven fabric according to claim 17.

20. (previously presented) The product as set forth in claim 19, wherein the nonwoven fabric of the thermoformed product has a boiling water shrinkage percentage of 3.9 to 6.2%.

21. (previously presented) A thermoformable nonwoven fabric composed of filaments of a biodegradable polymer, wherein

the biodegradable polymer is a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid in which the copolymerization molar ration of either one of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid is 90% or more and that of the other is 10% or less,

the nonwoven fabric is a spun bonded nonwoven fabric and has temporary fusion-bonded spots preliminarily formed in parts of a web of the filaments in which the filaments are partially de-bonded through a three-dimensional entanglement process, and non-fusion areas in which the filaments are three-dimensionally entangled with each other for integration of the filaments,

the filaments have a polymer supercool index of 0.3 to 0.6,

the filaments have a birefringence of 3×10^{-3} to 15×10^{-3} ,

the filaments have a polymer crystalline size of 15 to 20 angstroms as measured axially thereof, and

the nonwoven fabric has a boiling water shrinkage percentage of 10 to 40%.

22. (previously presented) The nonwoven fabric as set forth in claim 21, wherein the polymer contains a nucleating agent.

23. (previously presented) A product thermoformed from the nonwoven fabric according to claim 21.

24. (previously presented) The product as set forth in claim 23, wherein the nonwoven fabric of the thermoformed product has a boiling water shrinkage percentage of 3.9 to 6.2%.

25. (previously presented) A thermoformable nonwoven fabric composed of filaments of a biodegradable polymer, wherein

the biodegradable polymer is a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid in which the copolymerization molar ratio of either one of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid is 90% or more and that of the other is 10% or less.

the nonwoven fabric is a spun bonded nonwoven fabric, and the filaments are integrated by completely de-bonding temporary fusion-bonded spots once formed in parts of a web of the filaments and three-dimensionally entangling the filaments through a three-dimensional entanglement process,

the filaments have a polymer supercool index of 0.3 to 0.6,

the filaments have a birefringence of 3×10^{-3} to 15×10^{-3} ,

the filaments have a polymer crystalline size of 15 to 20 angstroms as measured axially thereof, and

the nonwoven fabric has a boiling water shrinkage percentage of 10 to 40%.

26. (previously presented) The nonwoven fabric as set forth in claim 25, wherein the polymer contains a nucleating agent.

27. (previously presented) A product thermoformed from the nonwoven fabric according to claim 25.

28. (previously presented) The product as set forth in claim 27, wherein the nonwoven fabric of the thermoformed product has a boiling water shrinkage percentage of 3.9 to 6.2%.